

JUDGE HOFFMAN.

Sometimes a man can be famous so long and fill a position so long that he will get to be looked upon as a matter of course, and half forgotten. Maybe it will seem like a paradox to make a statement of that kind, but one is reminded on reading of the death in San Francisco of Judge Hoffman of the United States District Court. He was appointed to that office just forty years ago. He sat on that bench while a full generation was born and died in California. He occupied that position until in the minds of the people, it got the impression that he was always going to be there. He occupied the position until the handling of its duties got to be simply routine work, and he did his work as mechanically as a bookkeeper does his. The chances are he has not had a fresh thought in ten years. He has run his court as some old practicing physicians give their prescriptions. They have not read a book in twenty years, they look at a man's tongue, they feel his pulse, and note that it is the same kind of a tongue, the same kind of a pulse that they gave quinine, morphine or calomel for twenty years ago, and they write the prescription without a consciousness that the world has moved forward a bit in a score of years. As for Judge Hoffman, he was an able lawyer, and a good conscientious Judge, and the fact that without reproach he held one office for forty years, is something so remarkable, that that ought to be chiseled on his grave stone. He saw the new State of California born. He saw the glory which came with the mining of the placers; he saw that mining fail, and the decline which followed, and then the new glory, which came with the wheat field and the vineyard. He saw the storms and the sunshine of forty years. He lived out every depression. He lived until some morning as he awoke he saw that the generation had passed on beyond him, and he said to himself, "It is time for me to get into my box," and he lay down and died. Not a great life, but an evenly-balanced life, like the flow of a river that starts from a spring in the plain, and with little fall rolls on to the sea. The close of his life was but a little lower than the source. While mountain springs bubbled around him, and had their Spring freshets, and their Summer drouths, while they were vexed with storms and rains, he moved on in the same steady current, and when it merged into that other river, there was no fall and no shock. He did forty years of faithful work; may he rest in peace.—Salt Lake Tribune.

PEN AND PASTE.

If gold has really been found in Maine in pay quantities it is something of a joke on some of the '49ers who traveled all the way from Maine to California to hunt for w. at they might have found near at home.

John Doland, of Findlay, Ohio, while flipping silver dollars in the air, swallowed one of them. Mr. Doland is no longer an advocate of the free coinage of the silver dollar. It takes up too much room in the stomach.

Of the 498 generals in the Confederate service only 184 are living. The title of Colonel seems to be a life preserver, however. The "plain Masters" in the South are about as numerous as the Generals.

William Clayton Laws, teacher of "the lost Egyptian art of painting," has been arrested on the charge of hugging one of his pupils. If Mr. Laws thinks he has discovered still another lost art he should wander through Golden Gate Park after nightfall. A few peeps into dark corners will convince him of his mistake.

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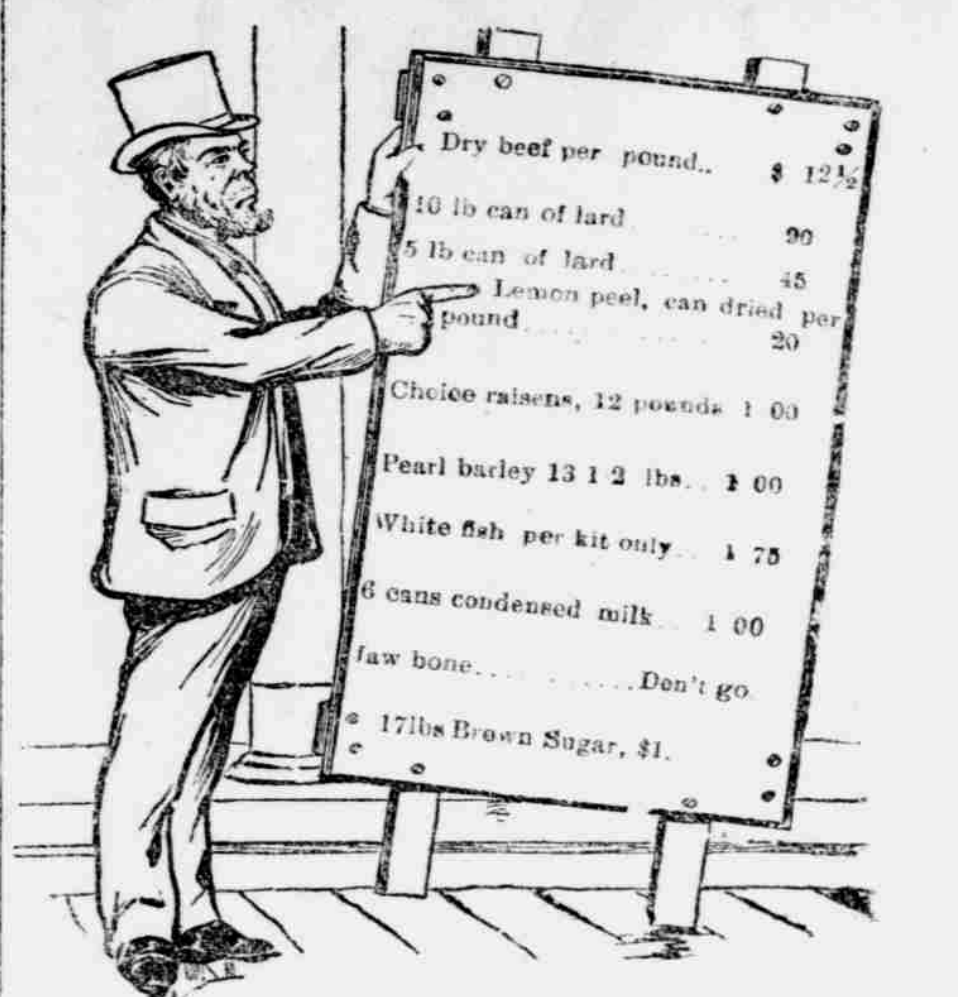
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